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U.S. Patent Application No. 09/620,484

Attorney's Docket No. 99-317RCE2IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of making a telephone call using a computer having a user interface, the computer operating upon an electronic document, comprising:

receiving an electronic document that includes data representing at least one telephone number;

selecting by way of the user interface a telephone number from a location in the electronic document to obtain a selected telephone number;

retrieving data, associated with the location, from the electronic document, wherein the data comprises the telephone number in a format usable for setting up a call;

determining if a calling party telephone number had been previously stored in local memory in the computer;

prompting a user to enter the calling party telephone number into the computer if the calling party telephone number had not been previously stored in the local memory in the computer, thereby storing the calling party telephone number in the local memory within the computer to obtain a locally stored calling party telephone number;

signaling, via a packet-switched network, a telecommunication system to connect a call between the selected telephone number and the calling party telephone number using the retrieved data by ringing a telephone associated with the calling party telephone number before calling the selected telephone number and, if the telephone is not answered within a specified

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period of time, by sending a message to the computer to request that the calling party re-enter the calling party telephone number thereby obtaining a locally stored and re-entered calling party telephone number superceding the calling party telephone number and by calling the re-entered calling party number before calling the selected telephone number; and

using either the locally stored calling party telephone number or, if superceded, the locally stored and re-entered calling party telephone number to connect all calls from the calling party, subsequent to attempting the call, to any telephone number including the selected telephone number.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the call is connected across a circuit-switched network.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the selecting includes:
selecting the telephone number from the electronic document via a mouse.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic document comprises at least one of an e-mail, a word processing file or a web page.
6. (Canceled)

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7. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling at least one processor having a user interface to perform a method of making a telephone call using an electronic document, the method comprising:

selecting by way of the user interface a telephone number from a location in the electronic document to obtain a selected telephone number;

retrieving data, associated with the location, from the electronic document, wherein the data comprises the telephone number in a format usable for establishing a call;

determining if a calling party telephone number had been previously stored in local memory in the computer;

prompting a user to enter the calling party telephone number into the computer if the calling party telephone number had not been previously stored in the local memory in the computer, thereby storing the calling party telephone number in the local memory within the computer to obtain a locally stored calling party telephone number;

initiating the establishment of a call between the selected telephone number and the stored calling party telephone number using the retrieved data by ringing a telephone associated with the calling party telephone number before calling the selected telephone number and, if the telephone is not answered within a specified period of time, by sending a message to the computer to request that the calling party re-enter the calling party telephone number thereby obtaining a locally stored and re-entered calling party telephone number superceding the calling party telephone number and by calling the re-entered calling party number before calling the selected telephone number; and

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using either the locally stored calling party telephone number or, if superceded, the locally stored and re-entered calling party telephone number to connect all calls from the calling party, subsequent to attempting the call, to any telephone number including the selected telephone number.

8. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 7, wherein the call is connected across a circuit-switched network.
9. (Canceled)
10. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 7, wherein the selecting includes:
selecting the telephone number from the electronic document via a mouse.
11. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 7, wherein the electronic document comprises at least one of an e-mail, a word processing file or a web page.
12. (Canceled)
13. (Previously Presented) A computer system, comprising:
an input device;
at least one processor having a user interface configured to:
receive an electronic document;

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receive input via the input device by way of the user interface selecting a first telephone number from a location in the electronic document;

retrieve data, associated with the location, from the electronic document, wherein the data comprises the first telephone number in a format usable for setting up a call;

determine if a calling party telephone number had been previously stored in local memory in the computer;

prompt a user to enter the calling party telephone number into the computer if the calling party telephone number had not been previously stored in the local memory in the computer, thereby storing the calling party telephone number in the local memory within the computer to obtain a locally stored calling party telephone number;

signal, via a packet-switched network, a telecommunication system to connect a call between the first telephone number and the stored calling party telephone number using the retrieved data by ringing a telephone associated with the calling party telephone number before calling the first telephone number and, if the telephone is not answered within a specified period of time, by sending a message to the user interface to request that the calling party re-enter the calling party telephone number thereby obtaining a locally stored and re-entered calling party telephone number superceding the calling party telephone number and by calling the re-entered calling party number before calling the first telephone number; and

use either the locally stored calling party telephone number or, if superceded, the locally stored and re-entered calling party telephone number to connect all calls from the calling party, subsequent to attempting the call, to any telephone number including the first telephone number.

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14. (Previously Presented) A method of making a telephone call using an electronic document, comprising:

receiving, at a computer having a user interface, an electronic document that includes data representing a telephone number;

selecting, by way of the user interface, the telephone number from the electronic document to obtain a selected telephone number;

retrieving data, based on the selection, from the electronic document, wherein the data comprises the selected telephone number in a format usable for setting up a telephone call;

determining if a calling party telephone number had been previously stored in local memory in the computer;

prompting a user to enter the calling party telephone number into the computer if the calling party telephone number had not been previously stored in the local memory in the computer, thereby storing the calling party telephone number in the local memory within the computer to obtain a locally stored calling party telephone number;

connecting, if the computer includes a packetized telephone, a packet-switched call to a first telephone associated with the selected telephone number;

connecting, if the computer does not include a packetized telephone, a circuit-switched call between the first telephone and a second telephone associated with the calling party using the retrieved data, by ringing the second telephone before ringing the first telephone and, if the second telephone is not answered within a specified period of time, sending a message to the user interface to request that the calling party re-enter the calling party telephone number thereby

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obtaining a locally stored and re-entered calling party telephone number superceding the calling party telephone number and calling the re-entered calling party number before ringing the first telephone; and

using either the locally stored calling party telephone number or, if superceded, the locally stored and re-entered calling party telephone number to connect all calls from the calling party, subsequent to attempting the circuit-switched call, to any telephone number including the selected telephone number.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the selecting includes:
selecting the selected telephone number from the electronic document via a mouse.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14 wherein the electronic document comprises at least one of an e-mail, a word processing file or a web page.

17. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling at least one processor having a user interface to perform a method of making a telephone call using an electronic document, the method comprising:

selecting, by way of the user interfacc, a location in an electronic document, wherein the location has associated with it data comprising a telephone number in a format usable for connecting a call;

determining whether packetized telephone capabilities are present;

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connecting, if packetized telephone capabilities are present, a packet-switched call to a first telephone associated with the telephone number;

signaling, if packetized telephone capabilities are absent, a telecommunication system to connect a circuit-switched call between the first telephone and a second telephone associated with a calling party using the data; and

responsive to the signaling:

determining if a calling party telephone number had been previously stored in local memory in the computer;

prompting a user to enter the calling party telephone number into the computer if the calling party telephone number had not been previously stored in the local memory in the computer, thereby storing the calling party telephone number in the local memory within the computer to obtain a locally stored calling party telephone number;

ringing the second telephone before ringing the first telephone and, if the second telephone is not answered within a specified period of time, sending a message to the user interface to request that the calling party re-enter the calling party telephone number thereby obtaining a locally stored and re-entered calling party telephone number superceding the calling party telephone number and calling the re-entered calling party number before ringing the first telephone; and

using either the locally stored calling party telephone number or, if superceded, the locally stored and re-entered calling party telephone number to connect all circuit-switched calls from the calling party, subsequent to attempting the call, to any telephone number including the telephone number.

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18. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the selecting includes:
selecting the telephone number from the electronic document via a mouse.
19. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the
electronic document comprises at least one of an e-mail, a word processing file or a web page.
20. (Previously Presented) A computer system, comprising:
an input device; and
at least one processor, having a user interface, configured to:
receive an electronic document that includes data representing at least one
telephone number,
receive input via the input device selecting, by way of the user interface, a first
telephone number from the electronic document,
retrieve data, based on the selection, from the electronic document, wherein the
data comprises the first telephone number in a format usable for setting up a telephone call,
determine if a calling party telephone number had been previously stored in local
memory in the computer,
prompt a user to enter the calling party telephone number into the computer if the
calling party telephone number had not been previously stored in the local memory in the
computer, thereby storing the calling party telephone number in the local memory within the
computer to obtain a locally stored calling party telephone number,

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connect, if the computer includes a packetized telephone, a packet-switched call to a first telephone associated with the first telephone number,

signal, if the computer does not include a packetized telephone, a telecommunication system to connect a circuit-switched call between the first telephone and a second telephone associated with the calling party using the retrieved data,

ring, if the computer does not include a packetized telephone, the second telephone before ringing the first telephone and, if the second telephone is not answered within a specified period of time, send a message to the user interface to request that the calling party re-enter the calling party telephone number thereby obtaining a locally stored and re-entered calling party telephone number superceding the calling party telephone number and call the re-entered calling party number before calling the first telephone number; and

use, if the computer does not include a packetized telephone, either the locally stored calling party telephone number or, if superceded, the locally stored and re-entered calling party telephone number to connect all calls from the calling party, subsequent to attempting the circuit-switched call, to any telephone number including the first telephone number.

21-24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously Presented) A system for making a telephone call using an electronic document, comprising:

means for receiving an electronic document that includes data comprising a first telephone number in a format usable for setting up a call;

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means for receiving input via an input device of a computer having a user interface, the computer selecting, by operation of the user interface, the first telephone number from the electronic document;

means for determining if a calling party telephone number had been previously stored in local memory in the computer;

means for prompting a user to enter the calling party telephone number into the computer if the calling party telephone number had not been previously stored in the local memory in the computer, thereby storing the calling party telephone number in the local memory within the computer to obtain a locally stored calling party telephone number;

means for signaling, via a packet-switched network connected to the computer, a telecommunication system to connect a call between the first telephone number and the stored calling party telephone number using the data by calling the stored calling party telephone number before calling the first telephone number and, if a telephone associated with the stored calling party telephone number is not answered within a specified period of time, by sending a message to the user interface to request that the calling party re-enter the calling party telephone number thereby obtaining a locally stored and re-entered calling party telephone number superceding the calling party telephone number and by calling the re-entered calling party number before calling the first telephone number; and

means for using either the locally stored calling party telephone number or, if superceded, the locally stored and re-entered calling party telephone number to connect all calls from the calling party, subsequent to attempting the call, to any telephone number including the first telephone number.

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26. (Canceled)

27. (Previously Presented) A method of formatting an electronic document through operation of a computer having a user interface, comprising:

receiving characters for placement in an electronic document;

analyzing the received characters to determine if any of the characters form a first telephone number;

identifying, by way of the user interface, a location of the characters determined to form the first telephone number in the electronic document;

determining if a calling party telephone number had been previously stored in local memory in the computer;

prompting a user to enter the calling party telephone number into the computer if the calling party telephone number had not been previously stored in the local memory in the computer, thereby storing the calling party telephone number in the local memory within the computer to obtain a locally stored calling party telephone number;

associating data, including the first telephone number in a format usable for setting up a telephone call with the stored calling party telephone number, with the location of the characters determined to comprise the first telephone number;

calling the stored calling party telephone number before calling the first telephone number and, if a telephone associated with the stored calling party telephone number is not answered within a specified period of time, sending a message to the user interface to request

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that the calling party re-enter the calling party telephone number thereby obtaining a locally stored and re-entered calling party telephone number superceding the calling party telephone number and calling the re-entered calling party number before calling the first telephone number; and

using either the locally stored calling party telephone number or, if superceded, the locally stored and re-entered calling party telephone number to connect all calls from the calling party, subsequent to attempting the telephone call, to any telephone number including the first telephone number.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, further comprising:

bolding and underlining the characters determined to comprise a telephone number.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, further comprising:

portraying the characters determined to comprise a telephone number in a different color than other surrounding characters.

30. (Previously Presented) A method of setting up a telephone call using a computer having a user interface, the computer operating upon an electronic document, comprising:

selecting, through operation of the user interface, a called party telephone number displayed at a location in the electronic document;

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based on the selection, retrieving data associated with the location from the electronic document, wherein the data comprises the called party telephone number in a format usable for setting up a call;

determining if a calling party telephone number had been previously stored in local memory in the computer;

prompting a user to enter the calling party telephone number into the computer if the calling party telephone number had not been previously stored in the local memory in the computer, thereby storing the calling party telephone number in the local memory within the computer to obtain a locally stored calling party telephone number;

sending a message containing the retrieved data to a remote device to set up a call between the called party telephone number and the calling party telephone number by ringing a telephone associated with the calling party telephone number before calling the called party number and, if the telephone is not answered within a specified period of time, by sending a message to the user interface to request that the calling party re-enter the calling party telephone number thereby obtaining a locally stored and re-entered calling party telephone number superceding the calling party telephone number and by calling the re-entered calling party number before calling the called party telephone number; and

using either the locally stored calling party telephone number or, if superceded, the locally stored and re-entered calling party telephone number to connect all calls from the calling party, subsequent to attempting the call, to any telephone number including the called party telephone number.

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31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the electronic document comprises an email.
32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30 wherein the electronic document comprises a word processing file.
33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the electronic document comprises a web page.
34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the remote device, responsive to receipt of the message, signals a telecommunication system to set up a call between the called party telephone number and the calling party telephone number.
35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein characters corresponding to the called party telephone number are associated with the location in the electronic document.
36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the characters are bolded and underlined in the electronic document.
37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the characters are portrayed in the electronic document in a different color than other surrounding characters not associated with the location in the electronic document.